

INTIMATIONS
NOW READY
THE CHINA DIRECTORY
1896.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY
This is the
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE,
and will be found, as usual, to show an advance
on preceding years both in fulness and accuracy
of information.
The DIRECTORY covers the whole of the
ports and cities of the Far East, from Peking to
Vladivostok, in which European reside.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF ABRATED
WATERS.

Our ABRATED WATER FACTORY is fitted
with the best English Machinery, employing
the latest improvements in the trade.

The Purest Ingredients only are used, and
the utmost care and cleanliness exercised in
the manufacture throughout.

The Water used is provided by repeated
Analyses to be Absolutely Pure.

For COAST PORTS, Waters are packed
and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and
the full amount allowed for Packages and
Bottles when received in good order.

Counterfeit Order Books supplied on applica-
tion.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."

All signed messages addressed thus will
receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always
kept ready in Stock—

PURE ABRATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

POTASH WATER.

SALTZEL WATER.

LITHIA WATER.

SARSAPARILLA WATER.

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GINGER ALE.

GINGERALE.

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty
or greasy, or that appear to have been used
for any other purpose than that of containing
Aerated Water, as such Bottles are never used
again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1896.

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Only communications relating to business columns
should be addressed to the Editor, and should
be accompanied by a business card or address
with communications addressed to the Editor,
not published, but considered as paid for.

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side of the paper only.

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BIRTH.

On the 23rd inst., at the Bungalow, Mount Kellet,
the wife of HENRY E. BOWEN, of a son.
(1846)

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, August 24th, 1896.

From the minutes of the last meeting of
the Committee of the Hongkong General
Chamber of Commerce it will be seen that
Mr. JOHN ANDREW'S claim for loss incurred
through the illegal action of the authorities
at Wuchow has been satisfied. It will be
remembered that Mr. ANDREW took up to
Wuchow a cargo of goods under transit pass,
but was followed by a small Government
steamer sent to warn the merchants that if
they had any dealings with him they would
be punished. This vessel arrived two days
after Mr. ANDREW and before any of the
goods had been delivered or paid for, though
contracts had been entered into and payment
against delivery was to be made next day.
The result of the warning was that the
merchants who had entered into contracts
came to Mr. ANDREW and asked to be
allowed to cancel their bargains. The matter
was represented to the Consul at Canton
and after a good deal of negotiation a pro-
clamation was issued which should have
declared that merchants were at liberty to
deal freely with Mr. ANDREW, but which, as
a matter of fact, after declaring that the
Government steamer above mentioned had
come to Wuchow, in connection with the
matter, went on to say that merchants were
at liberty to trade with Mr. ANDREW, but
that as soon as the goods passed into their
hands they would be charged with lekin and
duty again. The matter was again repre-
sented to the Consul, and by him to Peking,
and in the end the objection of the Chinese
officials was overcome and the cargo duly
disposed of. Mr. ANDREW'S venture was
an attempt to establish trade under transit
pass, and the officials, who in the South have
always been bitterly opposed to that system
and had hitherto succeeded in setting the
provisions of the treaty in that respect at
naught, strained every nerve and used all
their tortuous methods to retain their illegal
squeeze. The prompt and vigorous action
taken by the Consul at Canton, Mr. BARNES,
and by Mr. BEAUCHEUR, then Charge
d'Affaires at Peking, were, however, effec-
tive in breaking down the opposition and
securing official recognition of Mr. ANDREW'S
rights under the treaty. They came
the question of compensation for the loss
and delay to which he had been subjected.
Mr. ANDREW was detained at Wuchow
for over two months and was clearly entitled
to compensation, and his claim has now been
satisfied. The amount, \$2,182, is a very

moderate one and considerably less than we
should have expected Mr. ANDREW would
have obtained. What is of more
importance than the amount, however, is the
comparatively prompt settlement of the
claim and the principle it establishes, and
the Minister and Consul are to be con-
gratulated on having carried the matter
through with so little delay. It is now
open to any one who takes it to convey
goods up the West River under transit
pass. No doubt the officials will for a time
continue to throw every obstacle they can
in the way, but Mr. ANDREW'S case proves
that these obstacles can be overcome by
firmness and determination. The same
gentleman is now engaged in another ven-
ture of a similar kind and when the officials
become convinced that further opposition
is useless we may look for the smooth work-
ing of the transit pass system. If this be
really brought about foreign trade in South
China will be much indebted to Mr. ANDREW
for having taken such a spirited
initiative in the matter and carried it
through successfully.

This reason put forward by the Chinese
Companies for their recent increase in rates
was the reverse of convincing. In the first
place they stated that the increase was due
to the continued depreciation of silver. To
that the reply was that silver had gone up
instead of down since the rate was reduced
from \$2.80 to \$2. Now they say, in effect,
that the reason for the increase is that ar-
rangements have been made with the op-
position, which leaves them free to work their
monopoly for all it is worth. They say, how-
ever, that "as other Telegraph Companies"
"ions keep and liquidate their accounts in
gold the Companies have of course to make
"all their outpayments in gold, which has left
"them with a very small revenue on the
"homeward traffic and in some cases there
"has been an actual loss." In the absence
of the figures actually paid to the other
Administrations it is impossible to say what
precise weight should be attached to this
statement, as opinions might differ as to
what constituted a small revenue, but it
must be admitted that some share of the
blame for the extortionate policy followed
should fall on the Eastern Telegraph Com-
pany and the other Administrations with
which the Eastern Extension and Great
Northern connect. That admission, how-
ever, does not lessen the force of the case
put forward by the opponents of the in-
crease, because the Telegraph Companies
concerned are all in the same ring and those
with which we are locally brought into
contact and act their colleagues in the
policy by which we are made to suffer.

With regard to local tariffs, the Companies
would have us believe that they are exorci-
ng great generosity in charging only 40 cents
a word between Hongkong and Shanghai,
when at the rate of 15 cents per word
per 100 knots of cable the charge would work
out to 55 cents. How exorbitant this
charge is will be seen by a comparison with
the Atlantic rates, under which a message
can be sent over five times the same length
of cable for a shilling.

H.M.S. Redpoll left on Saturday for Swatow
and the French corvette, *Joly* for Amoy.

The steamer *Altimo*, which left Hongkong
on the 19th July, arrived at Portland on the
19th inst.

The King and Queen of Siam arrived at
Bangkok, on their return from Java and
Singapore, on the 18th August.

From noon on Saturday the 15th inst. to
noon last Saturday there were seven cases
of plague. Five of the patients belonged to the
Hongkong Regiment.

At Shanghai on the 16th August some Portu-
guese boys were bathing at Pootung when one
of them, a lad of twelve named J. De Souza, got
out of his depth and was drowned.

Shortly before twelve o'clock on Friday night
a coroner on the top story of Messrs. A. S.
Watson & Co.'s Dispensary fell down. No one
was injured. Dry rot or white ants caused the
collapse.

The telegraphic correspondent of the *Mercury*
states that on Saturday, the 8th August, the
U.S. Minister and Mrs. Doubt, who had been
counted on to be accompanied by the Victoria's
launch, were captured and narrowly escaped
what might have been a fatal catastrophe.

The following, dated Chetso, 18th August,
appears in the telegraphic column of the *Daily*
News:—The Russians occupied the disputed
foreshore on Saturday and began digging
foundations. Messrs. Ferguson & Co. applied
for an injunction restraining them, but were
refused.

In the telegraphic conversation on the 14th
August between H.E. Li and Mr. Grey, the former
said 85 words, while, after retransmission by
eleven human relays, reached Shanghai in 123
minutes, actual time. Being Shing's reply
amounted to 16 words, which, after retransmission
in reaching Greenwich, with the same number
of retransmissions, was 20 words.

A fatality occurred on board the *Rebecca*
at Shanghai on the night of the 17th August.
The fourth engineer, Mr. Inglis, was lying
asleep on the starboard gangway, when shortly
after 11 o'clock he was seen by the quarter-
master to be lying on the ground, apparently
dead. He was immediately taken to the hospital,
but died before he could be removed.

Our Anjo correspondent writes:—The German
ship *Freiburg* from New York and bound to
Hongkong, when off the Cape of Good Hope
encountered very severe weather and had the
portholes on her port quarter damaged, covering
board split, bilge-ways damaged, and quarter
galleries carried away, deck house damaged and
butts showing signs of straining, and had her
cargo much damaged.

In the course of a leading article the *M.C.*
Daily News says:—The Chinese Telegraph
Company has been obliged to come to an agree-
ment with the Cable Company, after a long
and gallant struggle, by Grant Cassin's orders,
and the foreign community owes to the Russian
Minister the liberation of 187,000 shares.

The British Minister opposed this new Convention in
the interest of the commercial community, as long
as it was possible to do so, and the Russian
Minister, however, was determined to have his
way. The Convention was signed on the 18th
August, and the Russian Minister was able to bring
it about.

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